8: Kostenko--17 G-4,5 (1868-80) 1880 RL1 Turkestan RL1

161 If the percent of natural increase in the Turkestan region is not high, we will see something quite different if we examine the population increase which results from other causes. The annexation of new lands and the colonization of the region both by the Russians and by natives coming in from neighboring territories, has increased the population figure for the area threefold.

The table on the following page shows the population change in the region for the eleven years from 1867 through 1877.

/336/ From this table it is found that:

1) In general, the density of the population of the region almost tripled.

162 2) The newly occupied territories not only increased the actual population of the region by almost 60%, but what is more essential, with their annexation to the area, the earlier proportion of sedentary to nomadic population was changed favorably and decisively. The nomads, who constituted between 1867 and 1869 around 70 to 80% of the total population of the region, by 1876 had already lost the numerical superiority to the sedentary population. In 1877 the sedentary group numbered over 200,000 more than the nomads, and represented up to 53% of the total population.

3) The sedentary population in the region increases much faster than the nomadic population.

I I

The significance of the local population in relation to the composition of the military district.

64 702 The native population of the Turkestan area is excused from the obligation of military recruitment. It is difficult to say whether this gift

641
702 of grace will continue long. It would seem that in the name of justice, the sooner these people participate in recruit duties the better. Entering into the body of the empire, being made members of the broad Russian family, enjoying the same rights, the population of Turkestan should also bear the same burdens. Unfortunately, in regard to recruitment, these newly annexed provinces are still in a special and unusual position. The natives are not yet accustomed to
703 Russian procedures, have not yet succeeded in acclimatizing themselves to Russian rule and to the demands of reasonable discipline. For them military service would be too sharp a transition from the kind of life they know, and there is no doubt that the new recruits would turn into /337/ very bad soldiers. The proximity of independent Central Asian khanates would contribute very much to desertions by our native soldiers. After our occupation of the Turkestan region desertions from the service by our soldiers occurred mostly among the lower ranks, among men of Tatar origin. They took refuge in countries related to them in religion, and found more attractive careers than in the Russian military service. This state of affairs led the administration of the Turkestan area to advocate not using Tatars in the lower ranks of the service in that region.

000 Thus, if the Volga Moslems have shown themselves unsuitable for Russian service in Turkestan, it is useless even to speak of the natives, who are even less consolidated with the